

Let's tackle the childcare crisis with bold reforms. Let's build an economy that actually works for our families here.

Now, I want to end today with the same words that I actually said 30 years ago right here on the Senate floor:

If one mother is able to sit with her seriously ill son without fear of losing her life savings, if one son is able to hold the hand of his dying mother, if one of us—you or I—is able to care for someone we love when they need us the most, then the time and the energy spent on [these issues has been] worth it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 3.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 3, DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID W. CARLE

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, the January 26, 2023, issue of "Roll Call" included an interview with David Carle, who is retiring from the Senate after 45 years as a congressional press secretary, the last 26 years as Senator Leahy's communications director. I want to pay tribute to David, who long remained out of the limelight but who played an indispensable role, day in and day out, translating the often arcane business of the Congress into concise, coherent prose for Vermonters and countless others in this country and around the world.

As the interview notes, David arrived at Senator Leahy's office after serving for 12 years in a similar capacity for Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, whom David admired greatly. In fact, when Senator Leahy retired on January 3, David was the longest serving press secretary in U.S. Senate history. That is an extraordinary accomplishment and a testament to his devotion to his work, to the Congress, and to the country.

An outstanding writer and editor, David was always attuned to the interests of Vermonters and the political sensitivities of controversial issues and votes. He not only brought an inherent talent for communicating in plain-spoken and compelling language, but underlying everything he wrote was a deep commitment to defending the principles this country stands for, particularly the First Amendment.

David was also a mentor to aspiring communications staff, who under his tutelage learned the nuts and bolts of interfacing with traditional and social media outlets. Several of them have gone on to become communications directors for other Members of Congress.

The people of Vermont owe David their thanks, as do all of us in the Congress who have benefited from his unflinching example of professionalism, dedication, and integrity.

I ask unanimous consent that the Roll Call interview with David Carle be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Roll Call, Jan. 26, 2023]

AFTER 45 YEARS ON THE HILL, DAVID CARLE
HAS SEEN IT ALL
(By Jim Saksa)

When David Carle started out as a press secretary on the Hill, the mimeo machine was still in the attic of Longworth and Democrats still dominated in places like Utah.

When the longtime aide retired this month, only three lawmakers could beat his 45 years of service: his (also retiring) boss Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., plus Sens.

Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.

In between, fax machines came and went, along with thousands of his fellow staffers, but Carle stuck with Congress.

Carle spent the last 26 years at Leahy's side as his communications director, where he witnessed firsthand how both the Senate and the media that covers it have changed, for good and ill.

Carle took a few moments to reflect on his lifetime in the Capitol with CQ Roll Call late last year. He shared what first drew him to Congress and what kept him there for so long.

Q: What drew you to Congress?

A: I've been on the Hill since 1977. I was born in Utah, but moved away to Ohio when I was 5. My dad initially was the press secretary for Akron Public Schools, and so journalism was always in my blood.

I took advantage of a lot of internships in college and graduate school. I was a governor's intern in Utah, and I won an internship with the Deseret News. Later I worked at the big powerhouse Clear Channel station in Salt Lake City.

So I've always had an interest in both politics and journalism. Back then it was less common to cross over between the two, and I was concerned about that.

Q: How did you end up making the leap?

A: Over the summer of '77, I had a fellowship at the Interior Department. I thought I would only be in Washington for a little while, so I literally went to every single Smithsonian museum and took in as much as I could.

The fellowship was running out, and I was due to go back to graduate school that fall. I thought, well, let me just sound out somebody I've admired in the Utah delegation, Gunn McKay.

Back then, if you can believe it, Utah had a three-to-one Democratic majority in Congress, and now it's become one of the most Republican states. I was hired as a press assistant. I still belong to Sigma Delta Chi, the journalism fraternity, but I've stayed in politics ever since.

Q: What made you stay? You could have cashed out.

A: That's a common pattern with communications directors: work here for a while and then move downtown to a public affairs firm. But I've always been more interested in working in government. For those firms, you have several bosses, several clients. I liked finding somebody I really respected.

Q: You've been here longer than most actual senators. What's it been like seeing this institution evolve and change?

A: When I first started with [Illinois Democratic Rep.] Paul Simon, he had a weekly column. He was a publisher of a small newspaper in Illinois. And my job as press secretary was to take the column up in the dark, hot attic of the Longworth Building where we had a mimeo machine and also an addressograph, where you put cards in and the envelopes are addressed.

There was a lot of manual labor involved with being a press secretary back then. You were dealing with newspapers and TV stations by mail, and sometimes by fax—you know, those stinky round machines that you clip a page in, turn it on and it spins, and then it's got coated paper that stinks. We also used alligator clips on a regular phone to send radio actualities to radio stations.

When Paul moved over to the Senate in 1985, we had a dozen major media markets in Illinois, and all of them had a presence in Washington. The Sun-Times alone had 17 people at one point in their bureau. And now it's down to one person, Lynn Sweet. But there has also been an explosion of other news organizations, given what's happened